

THE PEOPLE'S STATE CONVENTION.

The first convention of the people's party, representing primarily all industrial interests, and generally the interests of the whole people of the state and nation, convened at Representative hall, in the city of Topeka, August 13, 1890. Five hundred and twenty-one of the 529 delegates embraced in the call, were present. The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock a. m., by J. F. Willits, chairman of the state central committee. O. W. Jones, of Butler county, was introduced and favored the convention with a song, "America." This was followed by prayer by O. W. Jones and a second song. J. F. Willits was then elected temporary chairman and Ben W. Rich, of Trego, temporary secretary. On motion it was decided to appoint committees of one from each Congressional district on permanent organization, on credentials, on order of business and on resolutions. While the chairman was preparing these committees, Mrs. M. E. Lease was introduced and delivered a very forcible and entertaining address concerning the issues of the day and the duties of the hour. C. A. Powers, of Terre Haute, Indiana, followed Mrs. Lease in an address especially to the old soldiers, over 200 of whom were present as delegates in the convention. The *Topeka Capital*, whose editor and representative were both present, reports the number at about fifty. The *Capital* also thinks that there were probably thirty-five men present who had voted the republican ticket since 1880. The frantic efforts of the opposition to pretend to ignore the true character and import of this movement are amusing to those who are engaged in it, and the persistent falsehoods and misrepresentations of the press excite only contempt. Instead of discussing our principles like honest men, they confine their expositions to personal abuse and falsification. This is their only offensive and defensive weapon, and if we believed them honest in their sentiments we would not censure them for their methods. We may say of them as did one of old, who was crucified between thieves, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The following are the committees:

Credentials—J. D. Harvey, Brown; E. Z. Earnest, Johnson; T. P. Leach, Neosho; P. H. Reshell, Morris; L. K. Kistler, Marshall; L. J. Holcomb, Morton; G. A. Camp, Sumner.
Permanent Organization—L. C. Rightmire, Pottawatomie; E. W. Melville, Douglas; Van B. Prather, Cherokee; W. H. Biddle, Butler; O. H. Benson, Washington; T. J. Slason, Thomas; C. M. Black, Rice.
Order of Business—W. O. Harris, Leavenworth; P. P. Elder, Franklin; S. W. Chase, Cowley; Jesse Gray, Lyon; A. A. Newman, Clay.
Resolutions—J. W. Towner, Pottawatomie; Robert Osborne, Bourbon; B. H. Clover, Cowley; C. W. Marsh, Shawnee; John Davis, Geary; Ben C. Rich, Trego; Mrs. M. E. Lease, Sedgwick.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The committee on permanent organization reported for chairman, P. P. Elder, Franklin county; secretary, Ben C. Rich, Trego; assistant secretary, J. B. Caldwell, Sedgwick. This report was adopted and P. P. Elder took the chair.

The committee on order of business reported and the report being

adopted became the rule of procedure during the remainder of the convention.

The first business in order under the rules was the election of state central committee, and the following were elected:

At Large—J. F. Willits, McLouth, Jefferson county; S. W. Coombs, Topeka, Shawnee county.
First district—J. F. True, Newman, Jefferson county.
Second district—J. H. Oyster, Paola.
Third district—S. W. Chase, Topeka.
Fourth district—J. V. Randolph, Emporia.
Fifth district—Geo. W. King.
Sixth district—Frank M. Gray, Beloit.
Seventh district—E. M. Black, Stalling.
A. A. Whitman, Lawrence.

The convention having sent a congratulatory telegram during the morning session to the farmers' convention in session in Ohio, a reply was at this point received and read by Chairman J. F. Willits as follows:

COLUMBUS, Ohio, August 13.

Chairman People's State Convention,
Over one thousand delegate farmers of Ohio in convention assembled, thank you for your greeting and wish you abundant success.

FARMERS' UNION.

On motion it was decided that all nominees should take the stand and define their position on the issues and principles prior to the ballot being taken.

The committee on resolutions announced that they were ready to report, and submitted the following platform, which was adopted unanimously without amendment:

The people's party of Kansas, in delegate convention assembled, recognize Almighty God as the rightful sovereign of nations, from whom all just powers of government are derived and to whom all human enactments ought to conform; and, whereas, this convention is composed of members from all shades of political belief; and, whereas, we have agreed that the great question of labor, land, transportation and finance are the economic questions before the country and the world.

Therefore we set forth the following as the great underlying principles of the question aforesaid and exemplified in the St. Louis demands.

LABOR.

Labor is the beginning of progress, the foundation of wealth, and the laborer is entitled to a good living and a fair share of the profits which result from his labor.

Second—The use of labor saving machinery should shorten the hours of toil and insure to the benefit of the employed equally with the employer.

LAND.

The earth is the common heritage of the people; every person born into the world is entitled equally with all others to a place to live and earn a living, and any system of government that does not maintain and protect this inalienable right is wrong and should be changed or abolished.

PENSIONS.

We favor a service pension to every union soldier and sailor, and we believe that justice demands that the depreciated currency in which they were paid should be made good, and as full and complete faith be kept by the government with the soldiers as with the bondholders, and that ex-prisoners of war be remunerated for the time served in prison.

1. We demand the abolition of national banks and the substitution of legal tender treasury notes in lieu of national bank notes, issued in sufficient volume to do the business of the country on a cash system, regulating the amount needed on a per capita basis as the business interests of the country expand; and that all money issued by the government shall be legal tender in payment of all debts, both public and private.

2. We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

3. We demand that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures in all agricultural and mechanical productions, preserving such a stringent system of procedure in trials as shall secure prompt conviction, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

4. We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that Congress take early steps to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates; and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as are actually used and needed by them, be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

5. Believing in the doctrine of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," we demand that taxation, national or state, shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all revenues, national, state and county, shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

6. We demand that Congress provide for the issue of a sufficient amount of fractional paper currency to facilitate exchange through the medium of the United States mail.

7. We demand that the means of communication and transportation shall be owned by and operated in the interest of the people, as is the United States postal system.

8. We demand such legislation as shall effectually prevent the extortion of usurious interest

by any form of evasion of statutory provisions.
9. We demand such legislation as will provide for a reasonable stay of execution in all cases of foreclosure of mortgages on real estate, and a reasonable extension of time before the confirmation of sheriff's sales.

10. We demand such legislation as will effectually prevent the organization or maintenance of trusts and combines for purposes of speculation in any of the products of labor or necessities of life, or the transportation of the same.

11. We demand the adjustment of salaries of public officials to correspond with existing financial conditions, the wages paid to other forms of labor, and the prevailing prices of the products of labor.

12. We demand the adoption of the Australian system of voting and the Crawford county system of primaries.

People of Kansas, we come to you on this platform. Our candidates, speakers and writers will waste no time discussing minor matters.

The past is gone, the present is with us, the future is before us; old issues are dead; we come to you with new ones.

RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO RAILROADS.

Be it resolved, first, That all freight cars be supplied with the automatic air brake and safety coupling appliances.

Second—That we are opposed to the Blair bill as now pending before Congress relative to arbitration of labor disputes.

Third—That a board of labor arbitration be appointed to settle all labor disputes, consisting of three members, of whom one shall be chosen by the employer, one by the employee and the third by the other two.

Fourth—That we are opposed to the importation of Pinkerton detectives by railway corporations for the purpose of covering employees.

Fifth—That we are opposed to the conspiracy law as now on the statute books of our state affecting railway employees.

(Signed.)

J. W. TANNER,
JOHN DAVIS,
R. OSBORNE,
CHAS. W. MARSH,
B. H. CLOVER,
MER. M. E. LEASE.

Space will not permit a detailed account of the nominations and ballots for the several offices. Suffice it to say that while there was much earnestness in the advocacy of the several candidates, the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed from the beginning to the end of the session, and each nomination was made unanimous, the opposing elements submitting gracefully in every instance to the decision of the majority.

The ticket is a strong one, and one that is bound to win. Composed as it is of men who have formerly affiliated with all the political parties, the opposition will of course continue to sing their old song respecting the democratic and union labor proclivities of the convention and its nominees. We expect this. Every member of all the industrial organizations expects it. It is the only argument (1) to be urged against it. The people, however, understand perfectly well that we know no party in our organizations and care nothing for former political affiliations. The only questions now to be considered, or that will be considered by the people, are whether the candidates are honest and true to the principles of our platform. The falsehoods and misrepresentations of the enemy, and their endeavors to excite prejudice by their cry of union labor and democracy, will have no more effect than water poured upon a duck's back. The spirit manifested in the convention ought to satisfy every doubting Thomas that the people are not in a condition to be fooled very much of the time in this coming campaign.

The following are the nominees of the convention with their former political affiliations:

Chief justice—W. F. Rightmire, of Chase county; an original greenbacker. Took the stump in Iowa for the republican state central committee when that party fused with the greenbackers in 1881. A union labor man since his removal to Kansas.

Governor—J. F. Willits, of Jefferson county; republican.

Lieutenant governor—A. C. Shinn,

of Franklin county; democrat and old soldier.

Secretary of state—R. C. Osborn, Rooks county; republican and union soldier.

State treasurer—W. H. Biddle, of Butler county; republican and later a prohibitionist.

Attorney general—J. N. Ives, of Rice county; democrat.

State auditor—Rev. B. F. Foster, of Shawnee county; republican.

State superintendent—Mrs. F. McCormick, Barton county.

RESCUE THE PERISHING.

An old man bowed by the weight of nearly eighty years, whose hard and stiffened hands and bent form told the story of a life of toil, came to our office this morning after the convention of the people's party, and with tearful eyes and faltering voice told us the story of his life. It was the short, simple story of one of the many millions of toilers. Work, work, work, through all the hours of the day and all the days of all the long years. Always carrying the first and best fruits of his toil to a market whose prices were fixed by the idlers, who lived in luxury. Always himself falling short of the good things, an advancing civilization ought to furnish to every man who does his share of the world's hard work. Always but a voting tool in the hands of the schemers whose wits had been sharpened by the advantages and the training he could never afford. Always trusting his leaders whom he helped to put in office. Always betrayed by his leaders. And now, after a life of hope deferred, this honest, hard handed farmer comes and tells how in the anguish of his heart he has been praying: Oh God, how long must these things be? Must my children and my children's children bear the burdens and suffer the aches and pains that I have borne? All the years since the birth of the good old party of Abraham Lincoln this man had been casting his votes with that party. "What better could I do?" said the old man pathetically; "there was nothing better to turn to, but now at last, as my life is nearly over, I see with my dim old eyes the dawn of a better day. I see the gathering together of a mighty army of men and women, pledging themselves to work for our interest."

As a parting word the old man begged *THE ADVOCATE* to work with renewed zeal and determination for the success of the people's party, as its success would pave the way for that great readjustment of politics which is essential to the educational and constructive work which must follow.

THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE, of Topeka, is edited by a woman, and in the language of Dan Quin, "Wimmin don't think, they jest feel," hence you will find in an issue of *THE ADVOCATE* which is filled with personal abuse of Ingalls and other republicans, a claw stretched toward the editor of the *Republican*, who is accused of making personal remarks about an alliance candidate—*El Dorado Republican*.

Judging from the contents of the *El Dorado Republican*, it is edited by a man who neither feels nor thinks, but is simply wound up by the master of the political household and will run until he runs down.